

In presenting what I conceived to be a balanced and realistic appraisal of Soviet economic strength, there is always the risk that some newspapers may by selection convey a different impression than intended. My message was certainly not one of complacency about Soviet economic growth. Further, I do not see how anyone could take much comfort from the statement that Soviet industry is likely to grow from about 40 per cent of U. S. in 1958 to 60 per cent in 1970.

Sincerely,

**SIGNED**

Allen W. Dulles  
Director

STAT

ORR/  read 27 Apr 1959

Distribution:

Orig - Addressee

1 - DCI

1 - ORR -

1 - Speech File

T - ER

STAT

11-3486

28 APR 1959

Mr. Herbert S. Levine

STAT

Dear Mr. Levine:

The statement in my April 8 speech delivered to the Edison Electric Institute that Soviet industry "was no more than 40 per cent of U. S. industry" is our best estimate based on the latest information. This does represent a downward revision of the estimate that Soviet industry was 40 per cent of U. S. industry for 1956 which I quoted a year ago. The revision resulted in part from the use of a more complete set of 1955 ruble-dollar price ratios than was formerly available and from other new data. For example, the Soviet's own data on electric power input to industry in 1958 showed it to be slightly less than 40 per cent of comparable electric power input in the United States.

It must be granted that there is always the possibility of a considerable margin of error in future projections. Your calculation that Soviet industry might reach 70 per cent of U. S. industry by 1970 is within the realm of possibility. Equally it is possible that Soviet industry may be less than 60 per cent of U. S. industry, the projection which I cited. As my speech makes clear, however, I do not believe it is likely that Soviet industry will catch up as rapidly with that of the United States as you believe, unless U. S. growth is very much slower than expected.

DOCUMENT NO. \_\_\_\_\_  
 NO CHANGE IN CLASS.   
 DECLASSIFIED  
 CLASS. CHANGED TO: TS S C  
 NEXT REVIEW DATE: \_\_\_\_\_  
 AUTH: NR 762  
 DATE: 19/4/81 REVIEWER: \_\_\_\_\_

STAT

D-R-A-F-T

This doc

Dear Mr. Levine:

*and from other new data*

The statement in my April 8 speech delivered to the Edison Electric Institute that Soviet industry "was no more than 40 percent of US industry" is our best estimate based on the latest information. ~~It~~ represents a downward revision of the estimate that Soviet industry was 40 percent of US industry for 1956 which I quoted a year ago. The revision ~~involved among other measures,~~ <sup>resulted from</sup> the use of a more complete set of 1955 ruble-dollar price ratios than was formerly available. <sup>For example,</sup> ~~Incidentally,~~ the Soviet's own data on electric power input to industry in 1958 showed it to be slightly less than 40 percent of comparable electric power input in the United States.

*always the possibility of*

It must be granted that there is a considerable margin of error in ~~all~~ future projections. Your calculation that Soviet industry might reach 70 percent of US industry by 1970 is within the realm of possibility. Equally it is possible that Soviet industry may be less than 60 percent of US industry, the projection which I cited. As my speech makes clear, however, I do not believe it is likely that Soviet industry will catch up as rapidly with that of the United States as you believe, unless US growth is very much slower than expected.

*There is always*

In presenting what I conceived to be a balanced and realistic appraisal of Soviet economic strength, I ~~run~~ the risk that some newspapers may by selection convey a different impression than I intended. My message was certainly not one of complacency about Soviet economic growth. Further, I do not see how anyone could take much comfort from the statement that Soviet industry <sup>alone</sup> is likely to grow from 40 percent of US in 1958 to 60 percent in 1970.

Allen W. Dulles  
Director

STAT

Approved For Release 2003/04/02 : CIA-RDP80R01731R000200150067-5  
SENDER WILL USE APPROVAL FORM TOP AND BOTTOM

UNCLASSIFIED

CONFIDENTIAL

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY  
OFFICIAL ROUTING SLIP

TO	NAME AND ADDRESS	INITIALS	DATE
1		Eh	27 Apr
2	Ana/46DCI		
3			
4			
5			
6			
ACTION	DIRECT REPLY	PREPARE REPLY	
APPROVAL	DISPATCH	RECOMMENDATION	
COMMENT	FILE	RETURN	
CONCURRENCE	INFORMATION	SIGNATURE	

Remarks:

The DCI asked that you look over the changes he has made in the attached draft letter to Mr. Levine.

If you agree with them he will have it put in final form and send it along.

1-21 Looks fine to me.

[Redacted]

OLD HERE TO RETURN TO SENDER

ADDRESS AND PHONE NO.	DATE
Asst. to the DCI	4/24/59
UNCLASSIFIED	SECRET
Replaces Form 30-4 which may be used.	(46)
FORM NO. 237	U. S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE : 1955 - O-342531

STAT

STAT